

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects claims 16, 18, 30, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regard as the invention.

The rejection of claim 16 is overcome by this Response. The coating referred to in claim 16 is a coating that "adhesively joins" the individual filaments of the yarn. This is supported by the description of originally filed specification at page 7, lines 26-28.

Claim 18 is amended in a manner that the filaments are fluorinated with "gaseous fluorine" as stated in the description at page 6, lines 5-7 of the original specifications.

Claims 30 and 31 are amended to overcome the Examiner's objections by entering the word "forming" in place of "for producing." Therefore, the claims recite that the yarn is forming end products.

The Examiner also rejects claims 16-19, 30, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon et al., US 4,020,233 in view of Jahn, US 5,397,629. The patent issued to Dixon et al., refers to surface modification of synthetic resin fiber from materials by treatment with elemental fluorine, and to the fluorination process. Dixon et al does not explicitly teach to coat a yarn composed of fibers or filaments with fluoropolymer. All Examples I – VI of Dixon were conducted on fabrics and not on yarns.

Jahn specifically teaches that the fluoropolymer coating compositions are free of conventional adhesion promoters such as the one or two component adhesion promoters used in the production of PVC coatings (column 2, lines 28-37), but in place of conventional adhesion promoters, the fluoropolymer coating formulation contains an organic compound having a plurality of isocyanate groups, as described in col. 3, lines 19-22 of Jahn. Such organic compounds are incorporated as adhesion promoters into the fluoropolymer formulations

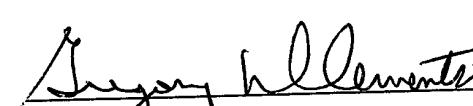
according to the invention of Jahn. The organic compounds are new adhesion promoters compared with the conventional adhesion promoters used in PVC coatings, but, nevertheless, they are adhesion promoters. In contrast, claim 16 of the present invention states that the fluoropolymer coating is free of adhesion promoting constituents. This lack of adhesion promoting constituents in the fluoropolymer coating of the present invention as claimed in claim 16 is a distinguishing limitation against the references of Dixon et al. and Jahn.

As a result, if one of ordinary skill in the art desires to provide a textile yarn having the features of high slip, chemical resistance, soil repellency and absorbitivity and combines the teachings of Dixon et al., and Jahn, he or she produces a fluoropolymer coating containing an adhesion promoter on the basis of an organic compound having a plurality of isocyanate groups. This is in contrast to the subject matter of claim 16, which is free from any adhesion promoter. Therefore, to coat the surface fluorinated yarns of Dixon et al., with the fluoropolymer coating composition taught by Jahns does not render claim 16 of the present invention obvious.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow the claims.

If the Examiner has any comments or wishes to contact the undersigned, please do not hesitate to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



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